



California Postsecondary Education Commission  
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# California Higher Education Accountability

**GOAL: Student Success**

**MEASURE: First-Year Persistence**

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# GOAL: Student Success

**Are students succeeding in getting through college?**

## MEASURES:

- Time-to-degree
- Full-time to Part-time Ratio
- **Student Persistence**
- 4-year degrees conferred for transfer students
- CCC degrees and certificates awarded and successful transfer



# Why Measuring First-Year Persistence is Important

- Schools that have high persistence rates typically also have high completion rates.
- Low persistence rates can be an indication of a number of student issues, both academic and personal.
- Approaches may vary from campus to campus and identifying and sharing best practices can improve overall state average.



# First-Year Persistence

- Used CPEC database to calculate first year persistence rates for UC and CSU by campus, ethnicity, and family income range
- Fall 2000 first-time freshman, ages 17-19, who completed a full-time course schedule their first year
- Percentages of students who returned for a second year as full-time, part-time or intermitted status or did not return at all



# Data for UC

- Of students who maintained a full-time course load for the entirety of their first year, 92% returned their second year with full-time or part-time status
- Combined full-time and part-time persistence varied only slightly by income (94% for highest income to 91% for lowest income)
- Overall persistence did not vary greatly by ethnicity: Asian American students had the highest persistence rates (94%) and African American students had the lowest (90%).
- African American and Latino students had a higher part-time enrollment status in their second year (12% and 10%, respectively) than Asian American or White students (both 6%).



# Data for CSU

- Of students who maintained a full-time course load for the entirety of their first year, 82% returned their second year with full-time or part-time status
- Combined full-time and part-time persistence varied by income; higher income students persisted at 84%, middle income at 82%, and lower income students at 79%
- Asian American and White students persisted at 83%, Latino students persisted at 80%, and African American students persisted at 73%.
- Latino, African American, and Asian American students had higher part-time enrollment status in their second year (22%, 20%, and 19%, respectively) than did White students (both 13%).



# Campuses with Highest Minority First-Year Persistence Rates

- Compared persistence rates of African American and Latino students at UC and CSU campuses, where African American and Latino populations were above the system means.
- For the UC system, UCLA had the highest persistence rates for both African American and Latino students.
- For the CSU system, San Bernardino had the highest persistence rates for African American students and Stanislaus had the highest rates for Latino students.



# In Conclusion

- California universities are stacking up favorably to comparable universities nationwide regarding time to degree
- We will continue the discussion of student success in the following agenda item, “Four-Year Degrees Conferred for Transfer Students”
- Questions?